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NEWSLETTER OF THE LONDON CHAPTER, ONTARIO ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY

FEBRUARY, 1978 78-2

MEETING NOTICE

As we announced in the last two KEWA issues, Dr. Jock McAndrews will be speaking on the subject of *The Royal Navy and Indian Farmers - The Pollen Connection* at our March 9 meeting. This meeting will be a little different than our usual, because it is being co-sponsored by our Chapter and the Department of Geography, University of Western Ontario. It will be open to the general public and has been advertised at a variety of public institutions. Consequently, the Department of Georgraphy has arranged to hold the meeting in the more spacious facilities of the School of Business. Dr. McAndrews' talk will begin at 8:00 P.M. in lecture room 40 of the School of Business (see enclosed map).

Our February 9 meeting was addressed by Mr. Stan Wortner on the subject of the Late Archaic Hind site. A last minute change in meeting location did not detract from the talk, as the over thirty-five people who crowded the small room in Middlesex College were presented with an articulate and well illustrated discussion of this extremely important Late Archaic cemetary. Many members remarked on the well controlled excavation techniques used by Stan Wortner, Bill Donaldson, and their various crews over the years. Certainly, their work will long stand as a credit to and model for non-professional archaeology in this province.

Dr. C. Whebell of the Department of Geography has extended an invitation to any O.A.S. members who might wish to attend the more technical seminar being given by Dr. McAndrews to their Department at 3:00 P.M. on the afternoon of March 9.

EXECUTIVE REPORT

Conflicting personal schedules and Norah McWilliams' recent departure on vacation combined to prevent a formal meeting of the Chapter executive this month. Informal discussions were held between the remaining executive members at the McMaster Symposium on February 25. One of the main topics of concern at the moment is the drafting of our Chapter's initial submission to the O.A.S. constitutional committee.

At the Ontario Archaeological Society executive meeting in Toronto on Wednesday, it was decided that the previously announced new society fee schedule would not go into affect at this time, due to constitutional considerations. The single membership rate of $6.00 still stands. Dr. Johnson indicated that the latest *Ontario Archaeology* is now in press and should be sent out shortly.

CANADIAN ARCHAEOLOGICAL ASSOCIATION MEETINGS, QUEBEC CITY APRIL 27-30, 1978
ABSTRACTS OF TALKS TO BE PRESENTED BY CHAPTER MEMBERS

Finlayson, W.D. and D. Bellhouse — *A Preliminary Assessment of Sampling Procedures in Archaeological Excavations.*

The 1975 Draper site project provides researchers with a unique opportunity to study and assess various sampling methods as applied to archaeological excavations. The 1975 investigations resulted in the total excavation of a number of middens and therefore the complete aerial population of specimens is readily available for laboratory study.

This paper presents the results of a preliminary study of sampling procedures of some of the middens. An assessment of the effectiveness of simple random sampling; stratified random sampling; and systematic sampling procedures in obtaining representative samples of rim sherds from these middens is presented. In addition, the effectiveness of traditional judgemental sampling procedures is also tested.

The results of this study are used to propose more accurate methods for sampling middens for future excavations on Iroquoian sites in Ontario. The broader implications of the study are also considered.

Reid, P. *The Weiser Site in the Context of the Central Great Lakes Region.*

The Weiser site, near Wallaceburg, in southwestern Ontario, is a Late Woodland, probably non-Iroquoian, mound-and-earthworks settlement which has been under investigation by the University of Windsor since 1970. I present the beginnings of a settlement pattern study for the Late Woodland period in southwestern Ontario and the adjacent parts of the United States, using information obtained at Weiser in the summer of 1977, as well as the archaeological literature for the region.

Prehistoric settlements, as represented by archaeological sites, vary along at least two dimensions: an ethno-political one (Iroquoian vs non-Iroquoian, etc.), which can be detected by differences in pottery styles; and a functional one (farming villages, vs hunting camps, etc.), which can only be detected by comparing sites as whole units. Weiser seems to be a fortified village settlement, and as such, compares with Clearville, Lawson, and other Late Woodland villages in southwestern Ontario, although it was built by a different ethnic group. The sort of functional settlement system of which Weiser was a part is as yet very poorly understood, as is the nature of the economic and political relations between the non-Iroquoian Weiser inhabitants, and their Iroquoian neighbours in this part of the world.

Reid, P. *The Use of Mathematical Models for the Analysis of Prehistoric Trade.*

The use of regression curves to model long-distance trade under different economic and political conditions has been discussed by several authors recently (C. Renfrew, The Emergence of Civilization,1972; I. Hodder and C. Orton, Spatial Analysis in Archaeology, 1976; C. Renfrew, Alternative Models for Exchange and Spatial Distribution, 1977). I discuss my own applications of some of these models to several cases of prehistoric trade in Europe: the trade in Hungarian obsidian and Swieciechow flint in southern Poland during the Early and Middle Neolithic, the trade in a particular type of copper ingot in Moravia and Lower Austria during the Early Bronze Age, and the trade in polished stone tools in southwestern England during the Late Neolithic and Early Bronze Age. Some instances from Ontario's prehistory are also discussed.

It can be shown that the trade of different sorts of goods (low vs high value, low vs high bulk goods), under different political and economic conditions do produce spatial distributions which can be modelled by different forms of regression curves. However, similar curves can be produced by quite different sorts of prehistoric economic exchange, so that, at the moment, the utility of this sort of analysis is limited.

While Rudy has not had time to draft an "Archy ribs" for this issue, he has provided the following, which is the second in our series of research notes.

A PRELIMINARY REPORT ON THE ARCHAEOBOTANICAL REMAINS FROM THE DE WAELE SITE (AFHD-1) A LATE GLEN MEYER VILLAGE

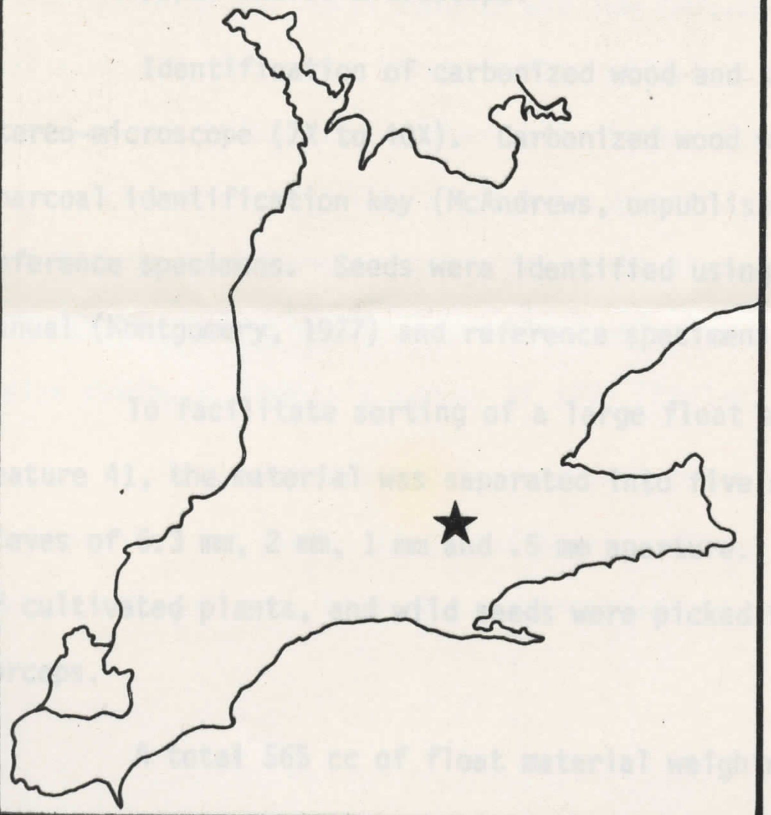
RODOLPHE D. FECTEAU

Archaeobotanical samples were submitted for analysis by William A. Fox, Regional Archaeologist for the Ministry of Culture and Recreation, London, Ontario in February 1978. Samples were in the form of plant remains recovered by excavation and flotation at the De Waele site (Fox, 1976) (see Figure 1).

Fifty-eight samples from four trenches in the village area and one hillside midden, representing 34 features, were examined.

FIGURE 1

DEWAELE SITE LOCATION



The samples contained identifiable carbonized wood and seeds (cultivated and wild). Most of the carbonized cultigens from the site had been analyzed in 1975 (Cutler and Blake, 1975). Carbonized wood was prepared for examination by breaking the specimen with forceps or fingers to obtain a fresh transverse (cross) section. Attempts were made to identify all wood greater than 6.3 mm. in size. A 6.3 mm sieve was used to sort and collect identifiable specimens from all samples. The smaller pieces of charcoal in these samples were difficult to identify, accounting for the large amount of unidentified material.

Some carbonized wood specimens were either distorted or too small for identification, and consequently, were classifed as indeterminable. Partial identification of angiosperm (deciduous) wood is classified as indeterminable diffuse porous or ring porous; gymnosperm (coniferous) wood is classified as indeterminable conifer; and unidentifiable wood is classified indeterminable.

Some deciduous wood specimens were not identifiable to genus, as characters of these specimens did not compare with the characters in the charcoal key, or with reference specimens. These specimens were classified unknown diffuse porous or unknown ring porous.

Carbonized seeds were separated by hand under 7X magnification with an Olympus stereo-microscope.

Identification of carbonized wood and seeds was made under a stereo-microscope (7X to 40X). Carbonized wood was identified using a wood charcoal identification key (McAndrews, unpublished manuscript) and reference specimens. Seeds were identified using a seed identification manual (Montgomery, 1977) and reference specimens.

To facilitate sorting of a large float sample from Unit A, Trench 1, Feature 41, the material was separated into five size classes using four sieves of 6.3 mm, 2 mm, 1 mm and .5 mm aperture. Carbonized wood, fragments of cultivated plants, and wild seeds were picked from the sample with forceps.

A total 565 cc of float material weighing 133.6 grams was procured.

The sample contained small particles of gravel, charred and uncharred seeds, plus charred and uncharred plant fragments.

CARBONIZED WOOD

A total of 453.49 grams of carbonized wood was examined and the results are expressed in percentage of total weight in Figure 2.

Maple and beech wood comprise 49 percent by weight of the wood examined and occur frequently. Ash wood represents 5 percent of the wood examined, elm and ironwood account for 6 percent, and all occur less frequently. Birch, butternut/walnut, hickory, and white and red oak make up 3 percent and occur infrequently. Conifer wood accounts for 3 percent and occurs infrequently.

The large amount and high frequency of maple (occurs in 75 percent of the samples) and beech (in 87 percent of the samples), combined with the small amounts and low frequency of occurrence of elm, ash, ironwood, birch, butternut/walnut, hickory, and white and red oak indicates a maple-beech climax forest setting during the eleventh century A.D. village occupation. An archival search of Ontario Land Surveyor notes has shown that a maple-beech dominant forest, including basswood and black walnut, covered the De Waele site during W. Hambly's survey of 1799 (Finlay, unpublished manuscript).

It is interesting to note that seven of the ten tree types represented are useful as a food source. These include maple, beech, white oak, red oak, hickory, butternut/walnut and elm (Yarnell, 1964).

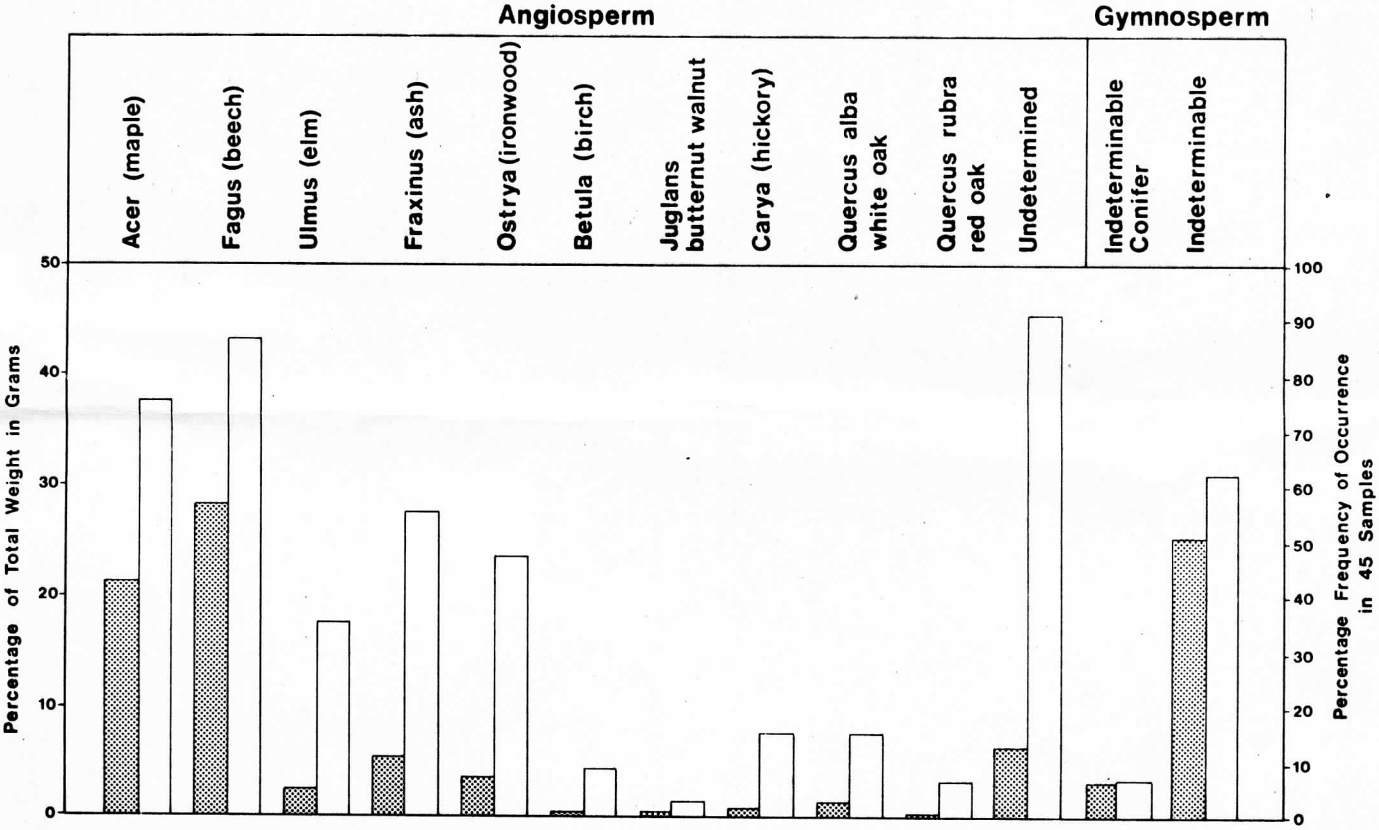


Fig.2 Carbonized wood identified from the DeWaele site. Solid bars are percentage by weight; open bars, occurrence in samples

CHARRED SEEDS

Nine of the samples examined contained small amounts of corn kernels, corn plant fragments and wild seeds.

Cultigens

One cultigen Zea mays (corn) was identified. It is represented by a kernel, an embryo, a cupule, a stalk fragment and miscellaneous fragments.

Wild seeds

Wild seeds are represented by Rubus sp. (raspberry) with 18 specimens, Sambucus sp. (elderberry) 5, Crataegus sp. (hawthorne) 2, Polygonum sp. (knotweed) 1, and Rhus sp. (sumac) 4. Four seeds and a carbonized plant fragment could not be identified. All wild seeds are from edible plants (Yarnell, 1964).

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ONTARIO ARCHAEOLOGICAL QUIZ VI

Answer to Quiz V: What causes archaeologists to lose their sanity, chew on rugs, bang their heads against the wall, howl at the moon, etc.? (A little over-stated). Yes folks, it's *problematical objects* - those residual artifacts in many collections which serve to remind the researcher how little we really know about man's past activities.

In his continuing campaign of mental torment, Peter asks:

> *What was the main source of Palaeo-Indian humour?*

(Answer: Two words. Twelve letters). The correct answer will appear in the next issue of KEWA.

L D M A N C I E N T R A E P S
A A L A S A B E R I N G M E N
N L K O S I T E S S M F A A T
O L G E S Z H E I I I S M M L
K A L O O C T O G R A V N M E
U R N N N H U R S T O R O O M
Y O A M T Q A T A T T E H L W
J L L O O T U D N U O I T L C
P F N R I S I I N K Q C N A D
O E I O D G L D N I F A U N A
I W N N M F R O E W U L H D R
N Z I S S A G A F A A G I A T
T F E C O L D E R N R R E C S
R E R E H T A G C E S L M H E
A N U A F A G E M S E P Y T S

Glossary

A
Agassiz
~~Algonquin~~
Ancient

B
~~Basal~~
Bering
~~Bison~~

C
Chert
Clovis
Colder
Cool

D
~~Darts~~
~~Data~~
~~Dig~~

E
~~Early~~

F
Fauna
~~Few~~
Floral
~~Finds~~
~~First~~
~~Flint~~
Folsom

G
Game
Gatherer
Glacier

H
Hunt

I
Ice
Iroquois

L
Lake
Lance
Land

M
Megafauna
Melt
~~Men~~
Migration

N
Nomad

O
~~Old~~

P
Plano
Point

Q
Quartz

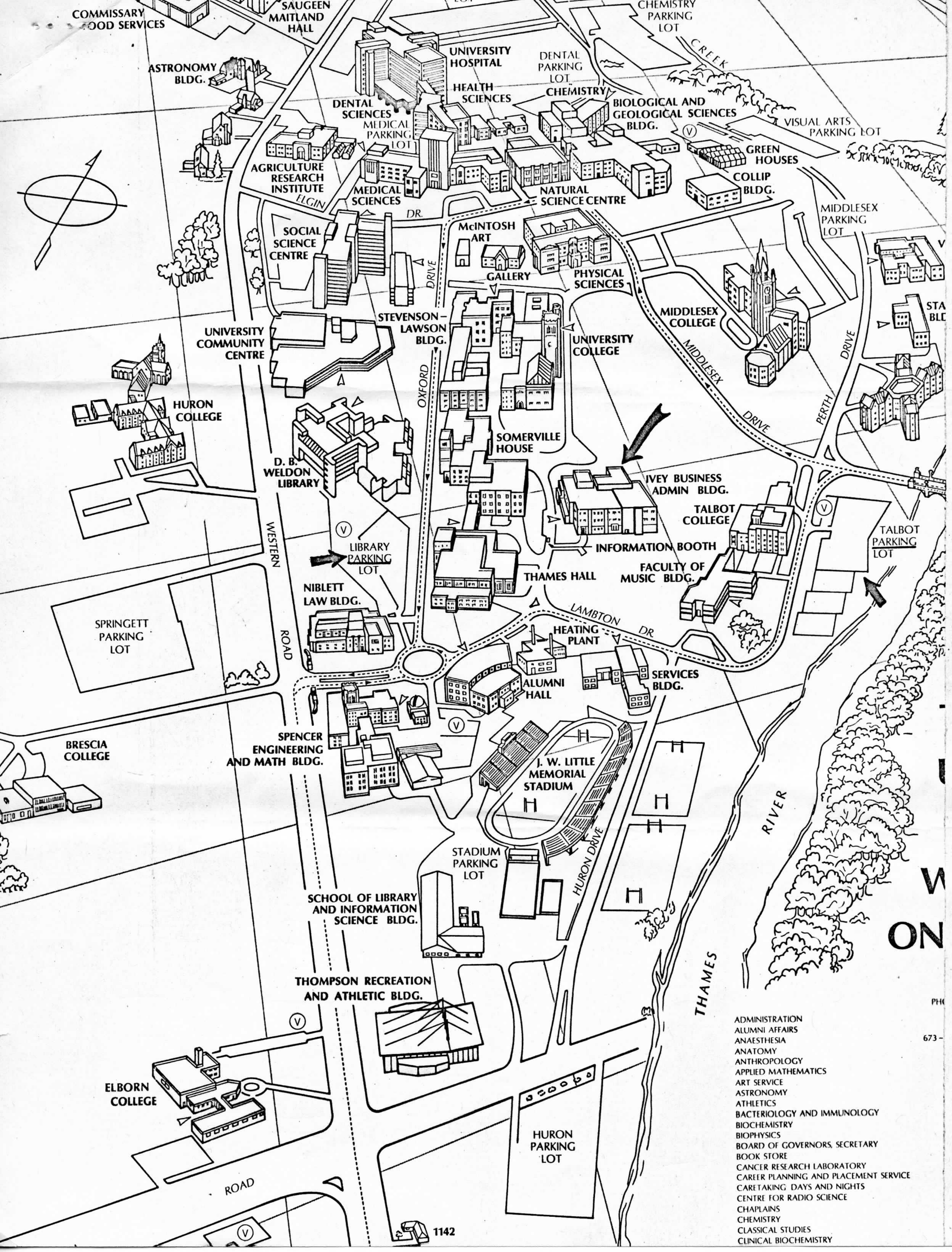
R
Rare
Rise

S
Sheguindah
Site
Snow
Spear

T
~~Taiga~~
Tool
Tundra
Types

W
~~Warm~~

Y
Yukon



ADMINISTRATION
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ASTRONOMY
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